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(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to new compositions of matter and methods for investigating or designing compounds for use in the treatment of disease, and more particularly to compositions that a) mimic β -strands, b) block β -sheet dimerization of proteins, c) block protein-protein β -sheet interactions and/or interact with proteins by β -sheet formation and as well as d) methods for investigating or designing compounds that mimic β -strands and/or β -sheets, e) methods for treating diseases or disorders by administering therapeutically effective amounts of such compounds to human or veterinary patients and f) methods for using a new protecting group (e.g., 2,7-dimethylfluorenylmethoxycarbonyl) in peptide synthesis.

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